

02/08-09/08—Dauphin County, Cumberland County.
 02/11/08—Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, Dauphin County.
 02/18/08—Chester County, Delaware County.
 02/19/08—Allegheny County, Washington County.
 02/20/08—Allegheny County.
 02/21/08—Montgomery County.
 02/22/08—Chester County.
 02/29/08—Montgomery County.
 03/08/08—Montgomery County.
 03/10/08—Lackawanna County, Dauphin County.
 03/15/08—Delaware County, Montgomery County.
 03/16/08—Chester County.
 03/17/08—Berks County, Montgomery County.
 03/21/08—Chester County.
 03/22/08—Lehigh Valley, Luzerne County, Northampton County.
 03/27/08—Allegheny County.
 03/28/08—Allegheny County, Armstrong County, Delaware County.
 03/29/08—Delaware County.
 03/31/08—Montgomery County.
 04/04/08—Dauphin County, Cumberland County.
 04/07/08—Allegheny County.
 04/14/08—Lehigh Valley, Dauphin County, York County.
 04/18/08—Allegheny County.
 04/19/08—Allegheny County.
 04/21/08—Bucks County.

VISITS/LEGISLATION ON DEPORTATION OF CRIMINAL ALIENS

Introduced S. 2720 on March 4th to deny visas and foreign aid to countries which refuse to take back their criminal aliens.

VISITS

February 8, 2008 at SCI Camp Hill.
 February 11, 2008 at the Luzerne County Prison.
 February 18, 2008 at the Chester County Prison.
 February 19, 2008 at the Allegheny County Prison.
 March 31, 2008 at the Philadelphia County Prison.
 April 4, 2008 at the Dauphin County Prison.

FOREIGN TRAVEL

December 22, 2007-January 3, 2008 (Israel, Pakistan, Jordan, Syria, Austria, and Belgium).

Dec. 23-26 (Israel)—Met with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, President Shimon Peres, Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, and Defense Minister Ehud Barak.

Dec. 25 (West Bank)—Met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, and Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat.

Dec. 26-28 (Islamabad, Pakistan)—Met with President Pervez Musharraf, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Tariq Majid, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Scheduled to meet with Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto on Dec. 27 at 9 PM—she was assassinated three hours earlier.

Dec. 29-30 (Damascus, Syria)—Met with President Bashar al-Assad, Foreign Minister Walid al-Mouallem, and opposition leader Riad Seif.

Dec. 30-Jan. 2 (Vienna, Austria)—Met with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohammed ElBaradei.

Jan. 2-3 (Brussels, Belgium)—Met with US Ambassador to NATO Victoria Nuland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. First, let me join in the condolences for our colleague,

Senator Thomas. Let me also recognize what for many of us is a sad anniversary of a day when one of America's brightest lights was extinguished and a distinguished Member of this body was lost.

You have heard him described as a good and decent man who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it.

IRAQ WAR INTELLIGENCE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, 5 years ago President Bush and this administration misled this country into a war that should never have been waged, a war that has cost our Nation the lives of more than 4,000 courageous men and women, squandered many hundreds of billions of our tax dollars, and diminished the world's faith in our country.

This morning, the Senate Intelligence Committee, led by our distinguished chairman, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER of West Virginia, released a report confirming what many have long feared: that the Bush administration ignored or swept aside substantial reliable intelligence that portrayed something other than what the President and his political allies wanted America to see.

The decision to take the Nation to war, as Chairman ROCKEFELLER indicated, is among the gravest and most momentous that a leader can make. In our democracy, we expect and deserve to be sure that when our troops are sent in harm's way, when their families are made to watch and wait through sleepless nights, when our security and national welfare is put on the line, that that decision has been taken for the right reasons. This is a sacred compact, an article of faith between our people and our Government.

This administration broke that compact, betrayed that trust. For years, the evidence has been mounting that this administration's reasons for the war were a sham. This week, the President's own former spokesman indicated that the White House ran a "political propaganda campaign" building the case for war.

This morning's report is a chilling reminder of the Bush administration's willingness to overlook or set aside intelligence that does not confirm to its preordained view of the world. Over and over, again the committee documented instances in which public statements by the President, the Vice President, and members of the administration's national security team were at odds with available intelligence information. By leading the American people to believe the situation in Iraq was significantly more drastic than it actually was, the Bush administration took this country into an unnecessary war, a war it still refuses to end.

In a speech in Cincinnati a little over a year after al-Qaida attacked America on September 11, President Bush said:

We know that Iraq and al-Qaida have had high-level contacts that go back a decade. We have learned that Iraq has trained al-Qaida members in bomb-making and poisons and deadly gasses.

In his 2003 State of the Union Address, a few short weeks before giving the order that began this war, the President said:

Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications and statements by people now in custody, reveal that Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of al-Qaida.

It was not true. The President of the United States told these things to our people and to the world, and they were false.

According to the report released this morning by our committee:

Statements and implications by the President and Secretary of State suggesting that Iraq and al-Qaida had a partnership or that Iraq had provided al-Qaida with weapons training were not substantiated by the intelligence.

The committee found that multiple CIA reports and a National Intelligence Estimate, released in November 2002, even as the administration was in the drumbeat to war, "dismissed the claim that Iraq and al-Qaida were cooperating partners." It was not true, and yet this President used this claim to convince the American public that there was a link between the Iraqi Government and the terrorists that perpetrated the crimes of September 11, 2001.

Again, in an October 2002 speech in Cincinnati, the President said:

We know that the regime has produced thousands of tons of chemical agents, including mustard gas, sarin nerve gas, VX nerve gas. Saddam Hussein also has experience in using chemical weapons. . . . Every chemical and biological weapon that Iraq has or makes is a direct violation of the truce that ended the Persian Gulf war in 1991. Yet, Saddam Hussein has chosen to build and keep these weapons despite international sanctions, U.N. demands, and isolation from the civilized world.

The report concludes:

Statements by the President and Vice President prior to the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate regarding Iraq's chemical weapons production capabilities and activities did not reflect the intelligence community's uncertainties as to whether such production was ongoing.

The intelligence community knew Saddam Hussein wanted to be able to produce chemical weapons. It could not, however, confirm President Bush's claim of certainty that Hussein's regime was actually producing chemical weapons. Yet the President made that argument, stirring up unfounded fears among the American people.

This administration not only asserted that Saddam Hussein possessed chemical weapons and intended to use them, the President also said in his speech on October 2002:

We could wait and hope that Saddam does not give weapons to terrorists, or develop a nuclear weapon to blackmail the world. But I'm convinced that is a hope against all evidence.